From: Financial Times Briefing <FT@emailbriefings.ft.com>
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Friday September 19 2014

UK HOMEPAGE

Pro-union campaign cheers early results

Treasury minister and leading pro-union campaigner Danny Alexander sums up increasingly bullish mood of No campaign: 'It does look like we have a No vote.'

Cameron poised to address 'English question'

In attempt to seize back the initiative, PM is planning to set out proposals to balance powers devolved to Scotland with new constitutional settlement for rest of UK

Alibaba prices shares in IPO at $68

The ecommerce group will raise $21.8bn after pricing its shares at the top of an earlier $66-$68 range for an IPO that represents a landmark for China and Jack Ma

US HOMEPAGE

Larry Ellison steps aside as Oracle chief

Co-founder and the tech industry's second-richest man remains as executive chairman and chief technology officer in leadership reshuffle

SAP buys software group Concur for $8.3bn

German group's all-cash deal, its biggest by value as it tries to remake its software business for the cloud, comes as the tech sector consolidates

ExIm Bank reprieve in funding bundle

Package also gives President Barack Obama $500m to train and arm moderate Syrian rebels and ensures continued funding for the US federal government

EUROPE HOMEPAGE

Draghi's eurozone jump start falls flat

Level of first take-up deals blow to ECB President Mario Draghi in the central bank's aim to expand its balance sheet to sustain the recovery

Sanctions see Russia's hardmen rise

Russia's business community is in shock over the arrest of Vladimir Yevtushenkov, one of the country's leading industrialists, and they are afraid

S&P 500 hits record high after Fed update

US and European stocks advance but the dollar loses its upward momentum in the wake of the Federal Reserve's latest policy statement

ASIA HOMEPAGE

Gladwell criticises Amazon in book dispute

Best-selling writer says Amazon's aggressive tactics such as delayed shipments on Hachette books hurts the online retailer's brand

Monitise's Visa issue shows tech struggle

Mobile payments group's wobbles highlight the challenges facing a clutch of high-profile UK tech groups which are losing investor confidence after initially sparking investor excitement

News Corp takes Google fight to Brussels

US media group's animosity about the technology group's so-called 'content kleptomaniac' has been brewing for years

WORLD NEWS

Poroshenko urges US to arm Ukraine

Ukraine president receives standing ovations for speech in which he warned non-lethal aid is not enough to turn tide in Kiev's battle with rebels

Isis beheading plan thwarted in Australia

Largest ever police operation launched in Sydney and Brisbane to prevent plan to kidnap a person at random and behead them in attack linked to Isis

Isis fighters surround Syria Kurdish town

Syrian Kurdish militias plead for help from Turkish Kurds after Isis fighters seize 21 villages in northwest Syria in less than 24 hours

Hollande rules out further spending cuts

French president François Hollande has ruled out going beyond spending cuts already announced, saying to do so would snuff out hope of economic growth

China reportedly arrests own diplomat as spy

China's envoy to Iceland allegedly accused of spying for Japan, underlining the crisis in relations between Beijing and Tokyo

COMPANIES NEWS

Home Depot attack bigger than Target's

Hackers might have hit up to 56m cards in larger breach than Target's

Warning on poor nations' access to capital

Nomura Europe chief says fines on western banks for money laundering and sanctions violations means banks are wary of lending in poor countries

Lotus to cut one-quarter of workforce

The Malaysian-owned UK car company says there are no plans to cut production of its three sports models, the Elise, Exige and Evora

Continental raises hopes on Oklahoma oil

Oil producer says there could be 3.6bn barrels of recoverable oil in state's south central play, more than four times as much as it estimated in 2012

GNC fields interest from buyout groups

Shares in vitamin retailer rose 5 per cent valuing the group at $3.7bn on news it had met banks after receiving attention from possible suitors

MARKETS

Sterling gains as Scottish results trickle in

British currency rises as results drip in from the Scottish referendum on independence, while Asian bourses focus on local factors

M&B gains on leisure tie-up speculation

M&B, the owner of Harvester and All Bar One pub chains, rose 2.5% to 411.9p amid talk it could seek a tie-up with Restaurant Group, which climbed 1.5% to 661.5p

Investors shun US inflation bonds

A stronger dollar and lower commodity costs negate the need for owning insurance against the risk of rising consumer prices

Traders stay wide awake for Scotland vote

Foreign exchange markets - open 24 hours around the world -will bear the brunt of the reaction to the referendum

Chinese demand for gold slumps

Chinese jewellery fabrication demand drops 22% in first half of 2014 as consumers work through ‘extra gold purchases during frenzy of 2013’

COMMENT

Scotland vote exposes established order

If elites fail to provide more accountable government they will be swept aside by the politics of exclusion

Deeper reform of housing finance is vital

The extravagant bet we have taken collectively on leveraging up property has gone very badly wrong

Emerging markets brace for a bumpy ride

The increasing role of asset managers is a striking – and risky – change in the credit ecosystem

For or against Isis, Iran must choose

Tehran will show its true colours in its actions against the bogus caliphate that it helped build

Savaging Google and American capitalism

The search engine is having far too much success, making way too much money and it just isn’t fair

MANAGEMENT

Is the midlife crisis just an excuse?

The malaise seems to hit employees earlier and is even demonstrated by chimpanzees and orang-utans, though minus the sports car

The tree that recharges your phone

The ‘Strawberry Tree’, an innovative solar-powered public charging station created in Serbia, is on its way to California

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